GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:371
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2002
INDO-MYANMAR MEETING
C. SREENIVAASAN;RAVI PRAKASH VERMA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eighth Indo-Myanmar Meeting was held in July, 2002, in Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether in the present security scenario Myanmar holds a strategic position for India; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to retain Myanmar as a strategic friendly country?

Answer

(THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS)(SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Issues discussed at the 8th National Level Meeting included security related issues, drug trafficking, free movement along the India-Myanmar border, joint inspections of boundary pillars, border trade and banking arrangements, maintenance of Tamu-Kalemyo highway, River Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport System, Tamanthi Hydro Electric Project, construction of tourist centre at Rih Lake, access to prisoners in each other`s countries, with the overall objective of promoting bilateral relations.

(c) Yes Sir, Myanmar is an important and friendly neighbour.

(d) Government of India has been actively interacting with the Government of Myanmar through a policy of broad based engagement capitalising on our strengths in industry, education, cooperation in establishing infrastructure projects etc. aimed at increasing the convergence in our interests.